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JPRS L/10055

16 October 1981

Worldwide Report

NARCOTICS AND DANGEROUS DRUGS

(FOUO 48/81)



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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AUSTRALIA

WA OPPOSITION RAPS DRUGS BILL, CALLS FOR INQUIRY

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 28 Aug 81 p 14

[Text]

The State Opposition yesterday called for a select committee inquiry into drug abuse in WA.

The Opposition spokesman on police matters, Mr T. H. Jones (Collie) described the Misuse of Drugs Bill as window-dressing.

It should be referred to a top-level inquiry, he said.

Mr Jones foreshadowed the Opposition's move for a select committee during the second-reading debate on the Bill in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the Bill made no attempt to tackle the problem of drug abuse and would be opposed by the Opposition.

The masterminds of "Mr Bigs" of the drug trade, living in luxury from the profits of drug trafficking and dealing, would continue to evade police.

"Instead, the police will continue to catch more of the little fish," he said.

"There is no evidence to support the Government's reasoning that raising penalties will deter drug users or traffickers.

"Some of the penalties are as harsh as those for murder."

[The Bill provides a penalty of up to 20

years' imprisonment, with no option of a fine, for drug dealers or traffickers convicted of conspiring to manufacture, supply or sell drugs.

Police are given more powers to detect and deal with drug offenders.

Introducing the Bill earlier this month, the Minister for Police and Traffic, Mr Hassell, said that the Bill allowed police to seize the assets of dealers].

Mr Jones said that the penalties would precipitate more drug-related crime in WA. Offenders would resort to desperate measures, such as murder and tampering with witnesses and juries, to avoid being caught.

Mr D. C. Parker (Lab., Fremantle) said that there should be more emphasis on education, rehabilitation, counselling and treatment.

Instead, the legislation prompted draconian penalties and civil-liberties infringements.

There was no discrimination between the more serious drugs of addiction and lesser drugs such as marijuana.

Mr J. F. Grill (Lab., Yilgarn-Dundas) said that the Government had ignored the best advice available from numerous royal commissions and inquiries when drawing up the Bill.

CSO: 5300/7503

AUSTRALIA

PROBE OF RAAF DRUG USE SPREADS TO BASES NATIONWIDE

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 5 Sep 81 p 17

[Text] Canberra--A major investigation into alleged drug abuse by members of the RAAF has been widened to include a number of RAAF bases around the country.

This follows new allegations of drug use at the RAAF's School of Technical Training at Wagga in southern New South Wales.

RAAF investigators have widened their inquiry to a number of bases around the country where former Wagga personnel have been posted.

It is understood that Defence Department investigators want to interview five former members of the Wagga base following the new drug-use allegations.

A Defence Department spokesman in Canberra confirmed yesterday that a new inquiry had been launched after new allegations of drug use at the Wagga base.

It is not known how many other RAAF bases are now under investigation.

An investigation was launched by service police on August 27, after allegations that some members of the force were using marijuana.

The police have interviewed five people — three men and two women.

The allegations last week were that members were smoking marijuana on and off the base.

It is the second time this year that a major drug inquiry has been launched at Wagga.

In May, 12 members of the Technical Training School, aged between 18 and 22, were dismissed after they admitted to smoking marijuana.

CSO: 5300/7503

AUSTRALIA

POLICE BELIEVE PHONY PASSPORT RING AIDED SINCLAIR GANG

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 29 Aug 81 p 1

[Article by Jenny Cooke]

[Text] Federal Police believe the drug syndicate leader, Alexander James Sinclair, may have had the help of someone inside the Department of Foreign Affairs to get false passports, an inquiry into the drug ring was told yesterday.

Detective-Sergeant Bruce Provost, of the Federal Police task force into organised crime, said that police knew of 20 fictitious passports — and the dossiers for all of them had been removed from the department files.

"There have been charges laid against individuals other than in the department," he said.

Mr Justice Donald Stewart of the NSW Supreme Court is heading the Royal Commission into activities, methods of operation and associates of Terrence John Clark (otherwise known as Sinclair) and his world-wide drug syndicate and any connections with or by him of State or Commonwealth officers.

Sinclair/Clark, with four others, was convicted of the murder of "Mr Asia," Christopher Martin Johnstone, and related drug conspiracy charges in July after a six-month trial at Lancaster, Northern England. Johnstone's mutilated body was found in Lancashire in October, 1975.

A warrant for Sinclair/Clark's arrest was issued after the Mel-

bourne inquest into the deaths of the New Zealand couple Douglas and Isabel Wilson, whose bodies were found in a shallow grave at Rye, Victoria, in May, 1979.

Detective Sergeant Provost told the opening day of the Royal Commission that inquiries had established three methods by which criminals illegally obtained passports.

They were processed with either a genuine birth certificate of a dead person or a genuine birth certificate of a living person with or without their consent, or passports containing "completely fictitious" details were issued.

These methods were employed "predominantly by drug syndicates for their couriers and also by other persons about to be charged with serious criminal offences," he said.

Australian Federal Police inquiries into a passport issued in the name of Alexander James Sinclair, born October 4, 1943, in NSW, found these details to be "completely fictitious" and the

dossier had been removed from the Passport Office.

Counsel assisting the commission, Mr C. E. K. Hampson, QC, said there was available evidence that "somebody had a book of forms so that he could produce any sort of birth certificate he wanted. For a price you had a birth certificate."

The commission heard that Clark obtained passports under the names of Alexander James Sinclair, Robert Andrew Gorrie, Peter Kriss and John Ely Newton. A passport issued to Norman Keith Perkin, in Brisbane, also had Clark's photo attached.

The last four passports were obtained by the birth certificate methods.

In all, 95 police files and other evidence were tendered as exhibits, 78 of them confidential.

Mr Justice Stewart said he was prepared to grant leave to appear for any person with a direct interest in evidence before the commission although this would be withdrawn at his discretion.

Mr Hampson said: "We propose to call witnesses who are in genuine fear of their lives. At least four associates of Clark have been murdered."

"Association by name with Clark could cause permanent injury to a person's reputation even if any allegation was later found to be untrue," he said.

The Royal Commission, set up by the Federal New South Wales, Queensland and Victorian governments, is expected to sit in Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane before its finding in June next year.

It has been adjourned to a date to be fixed.

CSO: 5300/7503

AUSTRALIA

POLICE PLAN RAID ON DRUG GROWERS TERRORIZING NORTH

Melbourne THE AGE in English 28 Aug 81 p 3

[Article by David Broadbent]

[Text]

BRISBANE. — Queensland police are planning a series of raids on suspected drug plantations along what MPs have called the "lawless far north coast".

The raids are being planned after allegations in Government party meetings that armed bands of drug growers and users have terrorised residents in a wide area from north of Townsville to Cooktown.

The allegations were made by a National Party MP, Mr Martin Tenni, who said residents and visitors had been intimidated by armed thugs who had shot at people to keep them out of some areas of rugged national parks and Crown land.

Mr Tenni's claims followed several reports from yachtsmen and tourists that shots had been fired at them on isolated beaches along the coastline.

The Police Minister, Mr Hinze, discussed the claims with the Police Commissioner, Mr Lewis, and Mr Tenni yesterday. Mr Hinze and police officials would not say what action was being planned and a senior Government spokesman said secrecy was essential.

But Mr Hinze said he accepted the allegations were true and treated them very seriously. "There is no doubt at all that that particular area of north Queensland is a very bad place," Mr Hinze said.

"The drugs are there but we will not be able to eradicate the problem in a matter of days."

Police officials said the latest complaints did not simply relate to "a few hippies who smoke marijuana and take their clothes

off". "This appears to be much more serious than a few people going up there to let their hair down for a few weeks in the privacy of the isolated north," they said.

On Wednesday Mr Tenni told a joint Government parties meeting that the area was becoming "infested with lawless hippies". Mr Tenni said people were being intimidated over a wide area which included large residential centres like Mareeba and Townsville.

Report

In Parliament yesterday Mr Tenni said a report of his allegations published in the Brisbane 'Courier-Mail' was grossly exaggerated and incorrectly said cane farmers in the district had been accused of growing marijuana.

Mr Tenni and a spokesman for the Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, also denied a claim in the report that the Premier had said he was considering calling in the army to "clean out the communes".

The Premier's spokesman said Mr Bjelke-Petersen had said it would take an army of policemen to solve the problem.

Mr Tenni said it would take at least an extra 50 policemen in the area to give residents protection from armed thugs. He was asked not to repeat his allegations outside the party room so drug growers in the area would not get advance warning of any police action.

But details of the meeting were leaked, apparently by some MPs who did not take the allegations seriously. One MP was reported to have described Mr Tenni's allegations as "the shootout at OK corral".

In August 1976 the State Government ordered a combined land, sea and air raid by State police and Federal narcotics agents on a "hippie colony" at Cedar Bay, 77 kilometres south of Cooktown.

Huts, clothing and personal possessions were burnt and 14 people arrested. Claims of wilful damage and personal injury made against police involved in the raid were dismissed by the Government, which ignored calls for an official inquiry into the raid.

CSO: 5300/7503

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

WA DRUG REPORT--The crackdown on marijuana farms is creating a new problem for police--hundreds of young people are growing cannabis in their backyards. Police in Western Australia reported yesterday that in the past year they had caught 260 people cultivating their own home supplies. The figures were 18 per cent up on last year and showed a surge in drug use now affecting even younger age groups. The police report, tabled in State Parliament, showed the number of young people under 18 charged with drug offences almost doubled to 50. Police also reported a sharp increase in the number of addicts obtaining or attempting to obtain drugs by stealing. Usually they try to get supplies by breaking into doctors' cars. More than 100 cases were reported during the year. Across all age groups there was a 48 per cent rise in the number of arrests relating to drug offences. A total of 1623 people faced drug charges during the year. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Aug 81 p 1]

HEROIN ARRESTS--Heroin worth \$50,000 was found in a woman's handbag when Drug Squad detectives arrested a de facto couple in Rushcutters Bay park, the Central Court of Petty Sessions was told yesterday. Lynette Fay Waldron, 29, and Grant Purchase, 30, both unemployed, of Birkley Road, Manly, were charged with possessing and supplying heroin and possessing Indian hemp. No pleas were entered. Sergeant Wayne Evans, prosecuting, said Waldron admitted putting five 10-gram bags of heroin into her handbag before Drug Squad Police arrested them at Rushcutters Bay park on Wednesday. Sergeant Evans said the value of the drug was about \$50,000. Purchase and Waldron were freed on \$5,000 bail each and the case was adjourned until September 16. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 4 Sep 81 p 12]

ITALIAN DRUG LINKS--Melbourne--Three Italian policemen arrive in Australia later this month to discuss the Italian-Australian drug link with law enforcement authorities. The three high-ranking officers will meet Federal and State police. The move follows raids in Italy on May 26 which confirmed the drug link. The raids concentrated on the Calabrian Mafia known as L'onorata Soceta (The Honoured Society). Police arrested 55 people in the raids. Many of those arrested had visited or lived in Australia. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 3 Sep 81 p 2]

VICTORIA DRUG STUDY--A police research team has begun a big study of the effects of drugs on driving. The project, the first of its kind in Australia, aims to establish how often Victorians take drugs before driving and what the drugs are. The head of the study, senior police researcher, Dr Jane Hendtlass, said some

research already had shown that drugs could contribute as much or more than alcohol to road accidents. She said early results would be known this year and that the study was expected to be finished late next year. Since the project began last year, an accurate screening programme for drugs has been sought. Although many programmes already exist, most can detect only certain drugs, missing lower concentration of other drugs in people being tested. [By Tony Harrington] [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 5 Sep 81 p 16]

RECORD NSW COCAINE HAUL--Sydney--Three men appeared in Sydney's Central Court yesterday following an \$800,000 cocaine haul from an eastern suburbs block of flats on Thursday night. The men, arrested after what police said was the biggest cocaine seizure in New South Wales, were refused bail and remanded in custody until next Friday. They are Ivan Rodney Hull, 33, a builder; William James Jennings, 39, a gardener, and Simon Jeremy Cowling, 33, a photographer. No pleas were entered. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 5 Sep 81 p 3]

CSO: 5300/7504

JAPAN

DRUG SMUGGLING VIA APO INCREASING

OWO71051 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 6 Oct 81 Evening Edition p 3

[Text] Drug trafficking by U.S. servicemen has steadily increased without letup over the years. However, most of the cases of narcotics and hashish smuggling through the APO have been dropped due to "insufficient evidence." The APO has been used to mail a large percentage of the hashish and other drugs smuggled into Okinawa prefecture. Accordingly, the squashing of drug smuggling through the APO continues to be an important task. However, in those cases where the sender of a package cannot be ascertained, investigation of the case is useless since the recipient may deny his involvement, claiming "I have nothing to do with it." Therefore, such cases are ultimately dropped in most instances.

Last year 332 hashish traffickers were arrested, an increase of 41.1 percent over the preceding year. Of this total, 324 were U.S. servicemen and civilians, accounting for 97.3 percent of the cases. Fearing that drug trafficking may spread to the local population, the prefectural office has time and again asked the U.S. military to tighten up discipline among servicemen.

According to data compiled by the Okinawa Branch (Chief Ryuji Kuroda) of the Kyushu Area Narcotics Control Office. As many as 33 persons were arrested last year for smuggling drugs by mail. They were all U.S. servicemen involved in hashish smuggling.

The breakdown by point of entry is as follows: Kadena Airport, 17, or about half of the cases; Naha Airport, 91 and Narita Airport, 7. The breakdown by point of dispatch is: The United States, 28, and the Philippines, 5. The amount of hashish confiscated ranged from 0.186 grams to 463 grams.

In the case of APO mail, the U.S. military officers concerned usually pick up packages which look suspicious, such as those with no description of contents, for inspection as they check incoming mail. But only 1 out of 50 packages is subjected to this kind of scrutiny. Many of the inspectors think a considerable number of packages are overlooked. Senders, on the other hand, are using more and more cunning tricks. One sender, for example, cut a hole in a candle filling it with drugs and "camouflaged" the package with some smell. Others pack the drug into ceramics or peanut butter. They resort to this kind of packing to foil detection by a search dog.

In addition to the difficulty in spotting, the inability to ascertain the sender poses a major obstacle to making an indictment against the suspect after his arrest. When suspects deny their involvement, their cases are dropped in most cases. Of the 33 cases last year, only 4 were indicted. Moreover, two of the four were indicted because they were found in possession of hashish during the search.

In the first half of this year, from January to June, 15 persons were arrested for smuggling hashish through the APO. But, 2 had their indictments suspended. The remaining 13 cases were dropped for reasons of insufficient evidence. Branch chief Kuroda had this to say: "If the identity of the sender cannot be established and the suspect denies his involvement, we lose all clues right there."

CSO: 5300/4512

PAKISTAN

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE--Rawalpindi, Sept 24--The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) arrested four persons from a posh hotel here yesterday to allegedly possessing rupees two crores worth five kilograms of heroin police said. The Director of Intelligence PNCB Mr Mahmud Hassan on receiving information organised a raiding party comprising Civil Lines police station and PNCB officials who conducted a successful raid and hauled up the four accused. The raiding party seized five kilograms of heroin from them which according to police was to be sent abroad. The four arrested were Aurangzeb Malik Amin Jan of Peshawar and Samad Khan and Hakim Khan of Landikotal PNCB sources said. According to them the contraband had been supplied by one notorious smuggler of Landikotal. Further investigations are in progress.--AFP [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 25 Sep 81 p 1]

PEDDLER ARRESTED--A drug peddler was hauled up by the Provincial Excise Intelligence Bureau and one kilo of heroin, worth about Rs 1 crore in the international market was seized from his possession in the Nazimabad area, it was reported yesterday. The reports said that accused Mohammad Hassan was placed under strict surveillance after he was suspected of peddling drug. However, when he was going on a motorcycle in a bid to hoodwink the excise police, he was caught in a dramatic way and one kilo of heroin was recovered from his bag he was carrying with him. The heroin, the excise sources said, if smuggled abroad, could fetch rupees one crore in the international market. [Text] [Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 22 Sep 81 p 5]

HEROIN SEIZED--Rawalpindi customs officials had been informed that heroin was being brought from the Kheyber Agency to Islamabad via the Kashmir highway. The customs mobile unit foiled the attempt and captured the smuggler near the Margala hills. Four kg of heroin worth six crores of rupees on the international market were seized. [GF021230 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 29 Sep 81 p 6]

HEROIN HAUL--Pursuing the 'leads' provided by the accused in the heroin-extraction plan last week, the excise hounds laid hands on two more drug peddlers with 5 kg of heroin worth Rs 5 million on the international market yesterday. It may be recalled that the excise policy had last nabbed two persons and discovered an illicit heroin-extracting plant in a people's colony apartment in north Nazimabad, along with the seizure of 13 kg of heroin worth Rs 200 million. [GF041117 Karachi DAWN in English 2 Oct 81 p 18]

OPIUM SEIZURE--Islamabad, 8 Sept--Customs authorities in Pakistan's Baluchistan Province today seized a large quantity of opium and contraband hashish valued at a street price of 1.6 million dollars, official sources said. The sources said that customs authorities, tipped off by an informer, deployed a special contingent who "ambushed" the drug peddlers as they were attempting to smuggle the opium out of the country. After an exchange of fire, the contingent seized 620 kilos (1,364 pounds) of opium and 75 kilos (165 pounds) of hashish, the sources said, adding that the drug traffickers escaped. Pakistan has recently stepped up controls of drug trafficking following United Nations narcotics control reports that the output of refined drug has shown an increase in the Pakistani tribal belt, which has its own administration.--NAB/AFP [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 10 Sep 81 p 7]

CSO: 5300/4902

PHILIPPINES

COUNTRY SECOND IN SMUGGLING MARIJUANA INTO JAPAN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 19 Sep 81 pp 1, 5

[Article by Mario Casayuran]

[Text] The Philippines leads other countries in the smuggling of guns and is second to Thailand in the smuggling of marijuana into Japan.

This was revealed yesterday by a Japanese delegation attending the four-day "Regional Customs Airport" conference sponsored by both the Philippine and US customs services.

A four-page statistics report by the Japanese delegation cited the seizure of 193,811 grams of metha-amphetamines from South Korea leading greatly over Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, and other countries during the 1977 to the mid-1981 period.

The number of seized firearms shipped from the Philippines, according to the Japanese customs service, reached 70 pieces, also during the same period. Second was the United States, with 62 pieces of firearms.

On seized marijuana shipments, Thailand leads other countries with 108,441 grams of marijuana, followed by the Philippines with 10,613 grams, also within the same period.

The mid-1981 report, however, showed a high jump on seized Philippine marijuana of 1,270.9 ratio compared with the previous year of 1,150 ratio to others countries, followed by 7.5 for Thailand and 3.8 for the US.

Earlier, Prime Minister Cesar A. Virata called on the delegates to the 13-nation conference to help stop the entry of dangerous drugs in their own boundaries and help minimize, if not eliminate altogether, the production of dangerous drugs and heroin. Customs Commissioner Ramon J. Farolan reminded the conferees of the continuing need for regional cooperation.

The US government, meanwhile, would increase its budget to interdict regional narcotics and dangerous drug smuggling, despite attempts to balance the US budget, according to James Rosenthal, charge d'affaires of the US embassy in Manila.

Use or misuse of heroin, opium and other dangerous drugs leads to corruption, high crime incidence and low productivity, and is used to finance terrorism, including insurgency, Rosenthal said.

On international terrorism for political ends with the "cynical use of people," Rosenthal said some 3,600 people have already died, with the US and Americans as principal targets "condoned by other states."

Annual losses or costs to governments and corporations as a result of international terrorism amount to "hundreds of millions of dollars," Rosenthal said.

Earlier, the Thai delegation alerted the Philippines on the possibility of increased international drug traffic through Manila.

Thai customs delegates confirmed that Manila was and is being used as a transshipment point for opium and heroin smuggled from the so-called "Golden Triangle" to the US and Australia.

In presenting its position paper, the Thai delegation said the traffic is expected to increase considerably this year as opium farmers in that "triangle" were trying to make up for the drop in production in the past two years.

CSO: 5300/4902

PHILIPPINES

MARIHUANA SEIZED IN NUEVA VIZCAYA

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 17 Sep 81 p 2

[Text]

DUPAX DEL NORTE, Nueva Vizcaya, Sept. 16 — A total of P15-million worth of fully-grown marijuana plants were uprooted and seized early dawn today from an eight-hectare plantation at barangay Bitnong, Dupak del Norte by joint elements of different military operatives in the province.

Considered the biggest plantation in the Cagayan Valley region, it is situated on a 75-degree mountain slope. The hot crops of first-class variety are wedged among rice patches and could be mistaken as part of the thick forest vegetation.

Thirty-four men scoured the area. It took them four days to harvest and bring down the fully-grown marijuana plants and several sacks of dried leaves.

MAJ. Miguel Coronel, Nueva Vizcaya provincial commander, reported that the marijuana plantation is manned by members of a well-entrenched syndicate from Benguet province.

Coronel said the cultivators and owner of the plantation are a certain Mendoza Guat, Daniel Limpayus and

Elmer Supla, all residents of Saplan, Benguet. They were earlier arrested by team operatives while harvesting some 2,000 marijuana plants.

One of their companions was killed during a raid by PC troopers 10 days ago in the same barangay.

The raid, led by Lt. Fortunato Bundalian, was the second raid in a month. With Bundalian were the operatives of the finance ministry intelligence bureau and the National Intelligence and Security Agency.

IN ANOTHER raid by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation this month, 7,050 full-grown marijuana plants worth P10 million were uprooted and confiscated in barangay Ampusangan, Kibungan, Benguet.

The raid was conducted following the arrest of two marijuana suppliers in Sta. Mesa.

Nueva Vizcaya and Benguet are known to be the centers of marijuana production in the country. Several raids have been conducted in these two provinces, all of which have yielded several thousands of full-grown marijuana plants. — ECG

CSO: 5300/4902

PHILIPPINES

BRIEFS

BENGUET MARIHUANA SEIZURE--San Fernando, Pampanga, Sept 14--PC and police operatives raided Saturday three marijuana plantations in barangay Sadsadan in Bauko, Benguet and seized marijuana plants and seeds valued at P500,000. The raiders also held three men suspected of maintaining the plantations. They were identified as Manuel Balikid, 42; Guese Kudli, 42, and a certain Rudy, all from barangay Sadsaran. The farms are situated one kilometer apart in hilly portions about 40 kilometers north of Bauko poblacion. Earlier, Angeles City police arrested two suspected dope pushers while allegedly selling drugs to Angeles subdivision residents. The suspects led investigators to marijuana farms in Benguet, where 2,100 fully grown marijuana plants and six kilos of marijuana seeds were confiscated.--RD [Text] [Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 15 Sep 81 p 2]

CSO: 5300/4902

THAILAND

CORRUPTION SAID TO BE MAJOR FACTOR IN FAILURE OF OPIUM SUPPRESSION

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 19 Jul 81 p 5

[Article by Wirasak Salayakanond]

[Text]

THAILAND is fighting a losing battle against the drug traffic from the "Golden Triangle", and its worst enemies come from within its anti-drug suppression force.

The illegal opium trade has so corrupted a number of police authorities to the extent that many high-ranking officers are suspected of being blatantly on the take.

The charges of corruption were aired by no less than Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Secretary General of the National Security Council (NSC). He said that some well-placed police officers in the anti-narcotics squad were themselves actively engaged in the trade, or were using their position to protect heroin traffickers.

"Corruption has greatly hampered the Government's effort to suppress the traffic of illegal drugs from the Golden Triangle," Mr. Prasong said dejectedly. He added that the drug traffickers and dealers offer huge bribes to police officers and other anti-narcotics agents "which they can hardly resist".

CHARGES COINCIDE

Mr. Prasong's charges coincided with the seizure of 55 kilograms of No. 4 heroin and the arrest of four drug traffickers on a parking lot of a Bangkok hotel.

To the utter embarrassment of the anti-narcotics forces, the arrested persons confessed that the seized drugs belonged to Police Colonel Nirun Wittayavuthikul, the logistical superintendent of the Third Provincial Police Command in the northern province of Lampang.

Officials of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) estimated that the haul was worth

about 10 million baht (US \$ 500,000) in local market and about the 10 times more in the American and European drug markets.

The Police Department issued an arrest order for Colonel Nirun, who has gone underground and as of this writing was still at large.

Colonel Nirun himself was a former member of the narcotics suppression force in the north when he was deputy police superintendent of Chiang Mai province.

Colonel Nirun was not the first high-ranking police officer suspected of being on the take in the illegal drug traffic. NSC sources said that some officers higher in ranks than Colonel Nirun are also suspected of dabbling in the trade on the side.

Another police Colonel, Pramual Vanichphan, a former superintendent of the Crime Suppression Division of the Police Department, was arrested in 1972 after a large amount of heroin was seized. Those arrested with him pointed to Colonel Pramual as the mastermind of the drug ring.

Several years ago, a deputy superintendent of the northern province of Lamphoon was charged with protecting several heroin factories near the Thai-Burmese border, but before he could be arrested he had fled to the Golden Triangle.

Although they outnumbered the corrupt overwhelmingly, honest police officers are clearly frustrated. "The illegal narcotics trade is a multi-million-baht business that draws the faint-hearted to it like a magnet," an ONCB official told *Depthnews*.

An anti-narcotics agent added: "It is not known exactly how many

policemen have been arrested for drug trafficking, but if we were to keep track of newspaper reports, the number could surpass 20".

Aside from corrupt police officers, many other government officials are reportedly involved in the trade in one way or the other.

This year the portents are remarkably bad for honest police officers. The average annual opium production of the Golden Triangle is estimated to be between 500 and 700 tons, and this year it is expected to be three times more than last year's because of good weather conditions.

Of the 500-700 tons of opium grown in the Golden Triangle -- the rugged mountainous area bordering Burma, Laos and Thailand -- only about 40-50 tons are produced by hilltribesmen on Thai territory.

But authorities claim that about 200 tons of morphine and heroin, which are refined from opium, are transported through Thailand to the international drug markets.

The police record on drug seizures is a dismal litany of limited success. Last year, only about 1,179 kilograms were seized; in 1979, 8,192 kilograms, and in 1977, 1,291 kilograms.

AVERAGE HAUL

On a yearly basis, the average haul amounted to only about one ton.

Authorities estimate that of the 200 tons of narcotics that reach Thailand from the Golden Triangle, about half of it is consumed local-

ly by Thailand's 500,000-600,000 drug addicts. The other half is smuggled out of the country.

"The amount of opium-related drugs such as heroin and morphine seized by Thai authorities is merely a drop in the ocean", said Satham Pairaoh, associated producer of the film "Opium Warlords".

Mr. Satham, who spent three years in the Golden Triangle during the shooting of the film, said the anti-narcotics campaign was further complicated by the political issues involved in the trade.

"The Shan state army leaders in the Golden Triangle claim they need the money from their narcotics business to buy weapons and supplies to maintain an army engaged in a continuing battle for independence with the Burmese soldiers," Mr. Satham said.

Laos is another crucial equation in the drug traffic. The Laotian Government is known to be getting a huge chunk of its foreign exchange from the illicit drug trade and it is not about ready to help attempts to stamp out the traffic in narcotics.

Laos refuses to sign the 1956 Vienna agreement on international narcotics enforcement for obvious reasons.

Aside from the Shan state army, remnants of the Kuomintang (KMT) area is also actively engaged in the production and trafficking of opium and heroin in the Golden Triangle. The KMT holdouts under General Lee have been engaged in running battles with the Shans and other Burmese minority groups in the battle for control of the drug business.

The Shan United Army (SUA) under a Chinese named Chang Chi

Fu or Khun Sa controls about 70 per cent of the Golden Triangle drug trade. The 800-man force used to operate a heroin-refining plant on the northwestern Thai province of Makhongsorn, but last year the Thai Government ordered the SUA soldiers out of its territory.

When they refused, Thai airforce planes bombed the area.

Mr. Prasong said that of the 15 heroin laboratories in the Burmese territory near the Thai border, seven are under the SUA. The rest are operated by the KMT and minority Burmese rebels.

IRRESISTIBLE

To the growers as well as opium traders, the economic imperatives of the business are irresistible. The hilltribesmen used opium as a cash crop on which they depend for food and clothing. Opium is also used by them to cure various ailments ranging from stomachache, headache to diarrhea.

Thai Government efforts to wean the hilltribesmen from opium production to alternative crops are sputtering.

Said an ONCB official: "The price of carrots is only 1 baht (US \$ 0.05) per kilogram at the farm site, and 15 baht (US \$ 0.75) in Bangkok. It takes about three years before coffee could be harvested. On the other hand, opium fetches from 25,000 to 30,000 baht (US \$ 1,250 - US \$ 1,500) for every 1.6 kilogram. So, the hilltribesmen reason out, 'why grow alternative crops when we can cash in on opium'?"

"And with corrupt law enforcers on the opium growers side, how could they lose?" an ONCB official asked. --The Muslim-Depth news Service

CSO: 5300/4507

THAILAND

BRIEFS

NEW HEROIN BRAND SEIZED--A Bangkok Finance Company salesman was arrested at the Montien Hotel yesterday as he was about to deliver four kilograms of first grade heroin to a narcotics official posing as a foreign customer, the Metropolitan Police Narcotics Unit (MNU) said. Police said that an MNU team arrested Prasit Thongchit, 27, in the hotel's coffee shop. They said a search of two large shoulder bags he was carrying revealed 12 bags of "Pegasus" brand heroin weighing 4.3 kilograms. An MNU spokesman said that the heroin was 95 per cent pure and the brand was a new one. [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Sep 81 p 1 BK]

HEROIN SEIZURE AT AIRPORT--Customs officials arrested an American woman at Don Muang airport, and accused her of possessing 4.563 kilograms of No 4 heroin. The arrest was made on Wednesday evening when Miss Candice Lee Carpenter, 32, checked in at the Aeroflot counter for a flight to Paris. Don Muang-based customs narcotics officers who had received a tip-off that she would try to smuggle heroin abroad demanded a search of her luggage. They claimed they found the heroin in six plastic bags hidden in the false bottom of her suitcase. [Excerpt] Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Oct 81 p 1 BK]

SONGKHLA, BANGKOK HEROIN RAIDS--The Songkhla Province drug suppression unit in coordination with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency and Muang District police arrested four drug suspects and seized about 10 kilograms of No 4 heroin yesterday. Following a tip-off from drug agents in Nakhon si Thammarat that the drugs would be transported into Songkhla Province, a joint operation was immediately launched. In three separate raids, police said 21 bags of heroin were seized, weighing about 10 kilograms. In another operation in Bangkok yesterday, a woman job agency owner and two temporary employees of the Royal Thai Air Force's transport division were arrested with 700 grams of No 4 heroin in their possession. Police claimed the three confessed to charges of heroin possession with intent to sell. [BK021241 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 81 p 1]

OPIUM SEIZURE IN NORTH--Loei--Two village volunteers and a Laotian were arrested at a hut in Ban na Chan in Chiang Khan District here yesterday along with 20.6 kilograms of opium believed to have been smuggled in from Laos. The three men were identified as defence volunteers Plueng Tapa and Thanu Phadi-oun and Sriphan Saengpradit from Muang Kaen Thao. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Sep 81 p 3 BK]

OPIUM SEIZURE IN SOUTH--Hat Yai police yesterday arrested a man and charged him with being in possession of 8 kilogrammes of raw opium worth 250,000 baht. Acting on prior information, the police lay in wait in front of Seng Motors Company and arrested Niwat Suepsak, 31, as he appeared with a bag containing the drug at about 6 p.m. Niwat told the police that he had been paid 30,000 baht by a Chinese man to carry the drug to the spot. He is being held for questioning. [Text] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Sep 81 p 3 BK]

AIRFORCE MEN IN DRUG ARREST--Two air force non-commissioned officers and a woman were arrested shortly after they allegedly sold about two kilogrammes of No 4 heroin to undercover police in front of Central Department Store on Lat Ya Road, Thon Buri yesterday. They were all charged with the possession of narcotics with intent to sell, Thon Buri police said. Police said the arrest was planned after the suspects allegedly made a deal with an undercover narcotics team to sell 250,000 baht of the drugs and make the delivery in front of the store at 1 p.m. yesterday. The three suspects were identified as Warrant Officer Mahidon Siwirat, 33, who was in uniform; Warrant Officer Thawi Phothong, 40, in civilian clothes; and Mrs Prachop Khunthong, 41, who showed up with a travelling bag. [Excerpt] [Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Sep 81 p 2 BK]

CSO: 5300/4508

CANADA

BRIEFS

GROWING DRUG TRADE ASSESSED--Edmonton (CP)--An assessment of the growing drug trade and of motorcycle gangs fills almost half a report on organized crime presented Wednesday to the meeting of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The report suggests a variety of counter-measures, ranging from outlawing the sale of drug paraphernalia in "head shops" to increasing the exchange of information between police forces. Drug use and drug-related crimes use more police resources than any other organized criminal activity, says the report, written by a committee under the chairmanship of Ottawa Police Chief Thomas Welsh. The drug trade's "over-all cost to society is even more staggering..." it says. "When our country completes its announced intention of softening sentences for cannabis users, the very real danger of an increased market and demand will exist..." The report predicts increased use of heroin and cocaine, and a continued widespread use of cannabis, which has helped build the illicit drug trade into an import business costing an estimated \$3 billion to \$4 billion a year. [Excerpt] [Ottawa THE CITIZEN in English 27 Aug 81 p 16]

CSO: 5320/004

IRAN

BRIEFS

NARCOTICS OFFICER--In accordance with the directive issued by the Islamic revolution prosecutor general, Mr Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Zargar was once again appointed as the Islamic revolution prosecutor general's representative in the Islamic revolution anti-narcotic prosecutor's office. He assumed his duties on 27 September. [LD290140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 81]

BELGIAN AMBASSADOR--The Belgian ambassador to Iran and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic consultative assembly, met this evening on the occasion of the termination of the Belgian ambassador's tour of duty. [Excerpt] [LD290140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 81]

OPIUM SEIZED IN KAZERUN--Kazerun revolution guards have seized two individuals following discovery of 1,050 grams of opium and 150 rounds of Kalashnikov bullets in their vehicle. [GF301736 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Sep 81]

HEROIN DISCOVERED IN BORAZJAN--An Afghan citizen has been arrested in Borazjan for possession of 60 grams of heroin. [GF301736 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 30 Sep 81]

DRUG SEIZURES--According to the central news unit, officials of the Islamic revolution committee in Sabzevar discovered a group of people engaged in the sale of narcotics in that town and seized 105 kg of opium from them. The smugglers were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities. Also, according to the Paris News Agency, officials in the antidrug squad of Kashmar this morning seized 7 kg of opium from a professional smuggler in Zarkash village. Officials of the Gendarmerie post in Zahedan also discovered 209 kg of heroin in a van. The occupants were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities. [Text] [LD040220 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Oct 81]

CSO: 5300/5303

LEBANON

PAPER REPORTS ON HASHISH PLANTING

PM251613 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Sep 81 p 5

[Report by AL-NAHAR correspondent: "Hashish Harvest in al-Biqa' Begins: 80 Percent of Land Planted to Hashish; 800-1,200 Lebanese Pounds Per Qantar"]

[Excerpts] Ba'labak--A few days ago the harvesting of green hashish began in al-Biqa' in general and Ba'labak and al-Hirmil in particular. Since the feast of the holy cross the "workshops" have been busy collecting the harvest in the hope of making substantial profits.

Hashish has become one of the principal crops on which the Ba'labak-al-Hirmil area depends, particularly since income from it in the past 5 years has generated an estate development boom.

The area of land planted to hashish totals more than 80 percent of the agricultural land in the area, and two-thirds of it is irrigated by artesian wells that are found far and wide on the plain.

Hashish prices this year are almost the same as last year's. The price per qantar is 800 to 1,200 Lebanese pounds, depending on the quality. The rent per irrigated donum ranges between 1,000 and 2,000 Lebanese pounds and a laborer's daily wage is 40 to 60 Lebanese pounds for men and women and 30 Lebanese pounds for those under 18 years of age.

Despite the financial returns the hashish planters obtain, the inhabitants of the area are demanding the activation of sunflower planting in view of the danger of hashish to the young, whose increasing consumption of it has begun to cause social ills.

CSO: 5300/4701

AUSTRIA

OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN DECRIES LIGHT SENTENCES FOR DEALERS

Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 17 Aug 81 p 4

[Text] "Three to four months in jail for a heroin dealer is scandalous. The great benevolence of the justice minister toward these dealers is due to the fact that his attitude is based on a false foundation." Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, the Peoples' Party spokesman for health, Wiesinger, severely reproached Justice Minister Broad. One year after the coming into force of the narcotics amendment, Wiesinger summed up the situation as a consistent disregard for the law by a government which, bound by its erroneous socio-political policy, was not taking the narcotics problem seriously.

The educational campaign prescribed in the law was not being carried out and the facilities for hospital treatment had not been increased by a single bed. In the final analysis, however, the only way to combat drugs lay in efforts to keep the youth away from narcotics. In the measures currently being applied, however, the Peoples' Party spokesman for health sees neither real punishment for nor a deterrent effect on the drug dealers. "The punishment provided for would be fully adequate but is not being availed of to even an approximate degree," declared Wiesinger although he does not place the blame on the judges. It is the state prosecutors who, on the one hand, propose the sentence, and on the other hand, do not appeal overly light sentences.

"Practice shows that state prosecutors know what the minister wants," said Wiesinger in criticism of the minister from whom he demanded directives to correct this situation. Sympathy for dealers even in the case of first offenders, was completely out of place in all cases. In the event that judicial procedures are not changed in the future, the Austrian Peoples' Party was considering initiatives which would lead to raising the sentence.

9827
CSO: 5300/2460

ITALY

ARAB DRUG-DEALING ENCROACHES ON MAFIA CONTROL

AU081647 Rome ANSA in English 1542 GMT 8 Oct 81

[Text] Rome, 8 Oct (ANSA)--Rome has become the center, not only for narcotic traffic but also of a war between Arab drug "carriers," aiming at first person control of the market, and the Sicilian "clans," the traditional managers of the peninsula's illegal drug business, Rome daily LA REPUBBLICA revealed here today.

In an article citing the arrests in Milan on Monday of two Egyptians found in possession of one kilo of pure heroin with a black market value of over one million dollars, the Roman newspaper claimed that at one time the Sicilian mafia was the undisputed king of the Roman market, which purportedly consumes more than 25 thousand "doses" of heroin daily for a value of approximately two million dollars.

According to the article, the Roman dealers paid for the cut and refined heroin in part with cocaine, which the mafia then used to consolidate its contacts with the Arab carriers, and in part with the proceeds from heroin sales.

The cocaine apparently was obtained by sending a part of each heroin consignment to the American mafia clans in exchange.

Now, according to the newspaper, the Lebanese and Egyptian "carriers" have begun to bypass the "Sicilian Canal" by selling the drugs themselves, provoking the anger and reprisal of the mafia dealers.

In fact, the two Egyptians arrested on Monday, LA REPUBBLICA claims, were the victims of a mafia vendetta, who decided to punish their independent business practices by giving police a subtle "tip off."

The newspaper reveals that when police burst in on the two Arabs, they were surprised to find such a large amount of un-cut heroin. "It was purer than we've ever seen before," according to the investigators, who added that the heroin was so refined that "it is proof that this new organization not only has men and means at its disposal, but also considerable financing."

The investigators quoted in the article predicted that a "violent feud" would explode in the near future over market ownership.

CS0:5300/2018

ITALY

LARGE DRUG RING BROKEN UP IN BARI

Bari LA GAZZETTA DEL MEZZOGIORNO in Italian 8 Sep 81 pp 1, 2

[Article by Dionisio Ciccarese: "Vast Drug Roundup in Bari"]

[Text] Narcotics still hold center stage in Bari: 18 persons, including a woman, were arrested yesterday by the carabinieri of the Operational Nucleus, crowning an inquiry lasting about two months. The operation was led by Capt. Saverio Cotticelli, assisted by over 40 men. The carabinieri assert that they have smashed Bari's small and medium caliber dope market, especially in the Japigia, Madonella, and Piazza Umberto areas, the latter for some time the mecca of drug addicts and pushers.

All 18 were jailed after deputy prosecutors of the Republic Rinella, Savino, and Ciccarelli, assigned to combat the drug trade in Bari, issued arrest warrants against them. These magistrates have also signed warrants against 13 more persons already in prison for other offenses (their names have been published in the CRONACA DI BARI, together with additional information). During a press conference at police headquarters on 21 August, Dr. Rinella explained the mechanism of the anti-drug campaign, which resulted in the arrest of six persons on yesterday's list.

Thus, things are moving in the solicitors' office as well as in the police circles.

The new investigating policy was adopted during a meeting held early this year. By its terms, the three magistrates coordinate all probes and oversee the duties assigned to the three branches of the police force: the Fiscal Police to watch the narcotics traffic, the carabinieri to keep vigil over the Murat, Japigia, and Madonnella districts, the police to survey the rest of the city--thus eliminating all conflicts of competence and overlapping efforts. All pertinent, useful information is turned over to the magistrates. The aggregate work done will be reinforced and evaluated by a newly-acquired computer, the first of its kind in Italy, including a data bank at the disposal of the investigators and magistrates.

The new probe went into action two months ago when the operational nucleus of the carabinieri indicted some 50 persons and released them on bail. Thereafter, a study was made of the city districts affected and an "album of drug peddlers" compiled to record the shifting gang memberships, their names, and the structural and social deficiencies of the neighborhoods they frequent. This difficult task is done by trailing suspects and intercepting telephone calls, a system which has

led to the identification of 31 persons dealing in medium caliber drugs. During the crusade, the carabinieri sequestered some 100 doses of heroin, weighing 20 grams.

According to the investigators, each dose sells for 40,000 lire. More than 600 doses were being sold every month for a total of approximately 800 million lire.

The roundup has proved to be a hard blow for the gang bosses, who have consequently lost a vastly profitable channel of distribution. As for the wholesale traffic, the investigators are convinced that a good share of the drugs destined for northern Italy and northern Europe are shipped via Apulia. Their findings show that the accomplices include a number of Sicilian mafiosi, many of them committed to compulsory exile in Apulia. This item of information, however, is nothing new. Another innovation: aside from the charge of "possessing and selling narcotics," they are now also guilty of breaking the law against "association for criminal purposes."

On the former charge, those who peddle "light" drugs can be sentenced to prison for from one to four years, while those trading in "heavy" drugs can get from two to six years. A verdict of "association for criminal purposes" can bring up to 15 years, with a three year minimum. The purpose of this measure is to keep dope peddlers out of circulation for a considerable length of time.

The investigators now acknowledge the necessity of determining who will replace them. Moreover, they are seeking ways to fortify their efforts not only to lop off the tentacles of the octopus but also its head.

Bari LA GAZZETTA DEL MEZZOGIORNO in Italian 8 Sep 81 p 7

[Article by Dionisio Ciccarese: "Dopesters Caught in the Carabinieri Net Are Mostly Common Criminals"]

[Text] The new probe has uncovered a vast network of small-time criminals functioning as intermediaries between drug pushers and buyers.

With the arrests made by the carabinieri, as reported on the front page, it is now hoped that the wholesale traffic in heroin and hashish has been wiped out. As one member of the Operational Nucleus put it, "The men arrested were selling middle caliber dope. Now that they have been caught, the sale of dope to the retail pushers has been interrupted. We will soon see the results. Addicts and retailers around the Piazza Umberto and the Madonnella and Japigia districts won't know where to turn for fresh supplies. It was there that the carabinieri cracked down hardest."

Who are the persons engaged in this illicit trade who, according to the investigators, are responsible for promoting drug addiction in Bari? Some are addicts themselves, many others are denizens of the underworld. Meanwhile, it should be pointed out that the trade in hashish, a "light" drug, is less extensive than that of the more deadly heroin.

The press conference held at carabinieri headquarters noted phenomenal numbers of common delinquents who have drifted into the drug world.

Let us examine for example, the situation in the Madonnella quarter, hitherto "worked" by six of the persons arrested, viz. Francesco Milella, Nicola Ceglie, Vito Palmieri, Giacinto De Filippis, Francesco Auricchio, and Vincenzo Milella, brother of Francesco and incarcerated since 21 July for trafficking in drugs. Headed by the Milella brothers, they constitute a veritable organization of criminals known for years to the police, but rather for thefts, bag snatching, and other minor crimes. "This phenomenon," an authority explained, "has given us a good many problems to solve because we are required to make innumerable verifications. Switching from one gang to another, still they maintain contacts with their former accomplices, and they often round up new recruits. Obviously, we must be alert to discourage anyone tempted to join dope peddling gangs."

The same can be said of Francesco Carone, Giuseppe D'Ambrosio, Vincenzo Troccoli, and Nicola Carofiglio, who "worked" the Japigia zone.

How was it possible for so many common criminals to move in on the drug scene? The answer points to the responsibility of those who should have intervened in the narcotics distribution front in good time. "In past years," we were told, "dope peddlers reigned supreme, partly because the regulations against possessing and selling narcotics are often too vague, while the charge of association for criminal purposes assumes other proportions." This was clearly a reference to those authorities who were doing little, particularly in rehabilitating addicts.

Only three weeks ago, the district attorney had dealt a similar harsh blow to the drug peddlers. The same individuals--Francesco Faraone, Giovanni Covello, Francesco Castori, Vincenzo Milella, Attilio Gargano, and Giovanni Santoro--have reappeared in the latest investigation.

All the others, however, sold their wares on Piazza Umberto, the gathering place most frequented by addicts, where they did a flourishing business. Faraone, arrested while selling gold items stolen from addicts, is well informed on this matter.

The carabinieri report also lists Francesco Bitetto, arrested for various episodes of arson (we published a report on this yesterday), which he committed to subject inhabitants of the Atlantide residential area in Torre a Mare to extortion. Altogether, a wide variety of criminal activities.

These are the Name of the 31 Persons Caught in the Blitz

Francesco Carone, 21, Via Caldarola, building A/32; Angelo Linetti, 35, Via G. Petroni; Francesco Milella, 34, 6 Via Giandomenico; Nicola Ceglie, 26, 27 Via Somalia; Vito Palmieri, 22, 24 Via Tanzi; Francesco Auricchio, 28, 10 Corso Sonnino; Giuseppe Coluccia, 36, 51 Via V. Emanuele, Palese; Grazia Sifanno, 19, 292 Via De Gaspari; Giuseppe D'Ambrosio, 24, Via Caldarola, building B/17; Vincenzo Troccoli, 23, 7 Viale Japigia, building I/6; Martino Fasano, 34, 393/4 Corso Sicilia; Pietro Drago, 25, 42 Via Lattanzio; Alessandro Conte, 29, 65 Via Trento; Emilio Lorusso, 27, 147/N Via Amendola; Lucio Corsi, 25, 217 Corso Benedetto Croce; Francesco

Giuliani, 29, 42 Viale Concilio Vaticano II; Attilio Gargano, 24, 3 Viale Saladra; Francesco Castori, 28, 1 Via Campania; Francesco Faraone, 70, 28 Via G. Petroni; Giovanni Covello, 25, 17 Via Noicattaro; Giuseppe Di Cosimo, 26, 15 Stradella del Ponte, Palese; Giacinto De Filippis, 19, 27 Via Cattaro; Luigi Giannoccaro, 26, 44/A Via Davide Lopez; Francesco Bitetto, 35, Via Papa Pio XII, Bitetto; Giovanni Santoro, 26, Viale Einaudi; Vincenzo Milella, 26, 29 Via Dalmatia; Vito Caracciolo, 27, 15/A Via G. Guiscardo; Nicola Corallo, 19, 62 Piazzale Locchi; and Luigi Abiuso, 24, 1 Via Carrante.

9653

CS0: 5300/2457

TURKEY

BRIEFS

HEROIN SEIZURE--Diyarbakir, 7 Oct (AA)--Security forces acting on a tip raided an illicit heroin factory at a village in Lice Country of Diyarbakpr and seized 33 kg of pure heroin which would be worth 4 billion Turkish liras in case smuggled out of the country. During the raid, there was a shootout between policemen and heron producers which left one of the latter dead. Two persons were captured as a result of the raid and five others afterward. A number of other suspects are being sought by the police, officials said. [Text] [TA071200 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1100 GMT 7 Oct 81]

CSO: 5300/2015

UNITED KINGDOM

ORGANIZATION OF CANNABIS SMUGGLING OPERATION DETAILED AT TRIAL

London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Sep 81 p 3

[Article by Ian Henry]

[Text]

THE British end of a multi-million-pound transatlantic drug smuggling operation was run by an extremely intelligent "university connection," an Old Bailey jury was told yesterday.

In a military-style operation code-named "Eagle" the gang landed 15 tons of cannabis with a street value of £20 million off the west of Scotland, said Mr JOHN ROGERS, Q C, prosecuting.

And when they thought the game was up — "the Eagle has blown" — they dumped three tons of the drug into the sea in panic, he alleged.

Customs officers swooped on the gang four and a half months after the 1979 New Year smuggling operation, and seized 7½ tonnes of cannabis — "bigger than all the seizures in any previous year in our history."

By then the gang had cleared more than £2 million and had another £500,000 on account with dealers, said Mr Rogers.

'Slick operation'

The three men in the dock were extremely intelligent, and ran a "very slick, very smooth" operation, he said.

DENNIS HOWARD MARKS, 36, an Oxford graduate of Hans Road, Chelsea. MORGAN STEWART PRENTISS, 41, a California university graduate of no settled address, and HEDLEY MORGAN,

34, another Oxford man of Oaklands Avenue, Potters Bar, denied seven charges of evasion of the prohibition of importing drugs and possession of drugs.

Nicknames, code-names and aliases abounded in the operation, said Mr Rogers.

Marks, the British mastermind, "had so many identities one wonders how on earth he remembered who he was at any given point of time."

The three main ones were Albie Lane, John Hayes, and Donald Nice, it was alleged.

"Even those aliases were complicated because he also borrowed names of others in place of inventing a purely fictitious one himself."

Mr Rogers said that on Dec. 29, 1979, 15 tons of high-quality Colombian cannabis were brought into Britain by a vessel called the Karob and dispersed to various places in Scotland.

"The organisation which took it in and the organisation which was responsible for its despatch from the far side of the Atlantic was substantial."

Meticulous accounts

He then named five other people, not in dock, who have admitted their part in the British organisation. They are: JAMES GOLDSACK, an Oxford graduate and trained accountant. "He acted as the accountant in this smuggling group and kept records of stock and sales in the operation meticulously, even using a computer."

ALAN GREY, a farmer with an honours degree in agriculture. "He was custodian of over three tons of cannabis which was waiting distribution."

MARTIN LANGFORD, an artist. "He was a small but important cog, occupying an address in London which was used by Marks as an office."

ROBERT KENINGDALE, a carpenter. "The odd man out. He was the resident storeman in one of the distribution centres in the small village of Pytchley, Northants."

NICHOLAS COLE, another Oxford graduate and a qualified but non-practising barrister. "He ran a business and had a storeroom for two-and-three-quarter tons of the cannabis."

'£1m receipts'

Mr Rogers said Marks was not the top man in the whole organisation. "That somewhat dubious accolade must necessarily go to a group of Americans on the other side of the Atlantic, and therefore outside our jurisdiction."

"But Marks is the most important figure inside the UK concerned with marketing and sales of the cannabis. He was closely associated with Morgan Prentiss.

"Marks was close enough to the top to be likely to get 10 per cent. of the total receipts of sales—in the order of £1 million.

"He was responsible to the United States 'investors' as he called them, and he accounted to them."

Important figure

Of Prentiss, Mr Rogers said he was a more important figure in the operation than first realised.

"He is a United States citizen who resided in Scotland at the material time. He controlled the actual landing and storage of 15 tons of cannabis on its arrival in this country.

"He gave orders, when he believed the operation had been detected, for more than three tons of cannabis to be destroyed and thrown out to sea.

"There are indications he would get 22.5 per cent. of the profit. By the time he was caught he had already received £175,000."

Prentiss, alleged Mr Rogers, was not only paying substantial sums to those who worked for him in Britain, but was also controlling the finances of the "investors" in the scheme.

Of Morgan, Mr Rogers said he was a well-paid employee, but not concerned in the management of the operation.

"He came on the scene about six weeks before the whole thing

was discovered. His job was to count the mountains of cash which came in and pay it into the bank."

He used a flat in Orme Square, Bayswater, "belonging to a man called Patrick Lane, who is Mark's brother-in-law.

Marks had been living with Patrick Lane's sister, and had since married her, said Mr Rogers. Morgan had counted more than £300,000 for the organisation, and was paid £1,500 for his efforts.

"He said he had no idea the money was to do with drugs but thought it a tax or currency fiddle by popgroups or Arab nationals."

Naming United States suppliers in the organisation, Mr Rogers said two of them — Walter Nath and Joel Magazine — came to England in 1980 "to provide encouragement to Mark and others to improve sales, which were lagging behind by £600,000 worth a month."

Military operation

Mr Rogers alleged that Mark's sister-in-law Natasha rented a safe deposit box used by Prentiss, and said it was significant that the password she was required to give to gain access to the box was 'Eagle.'

"We have reason to believe that the whole of this smuggling operation was almost like a military operation under the code word 'Eagle,'" he said.

When Nath realised customs men were investigating this smuggling, he sent a signal to London which read: "The Eagle has blown."

Customs men, who code-named their case "Operation Cartoon," eventually broke the "intricate web of bluff and counter-bluff and false names" after 4½ months of investigations, said Mr Rogers.

The trial was adjourned until tomorrow.

CSO: 5320/003

UNITED KINGDOM

BRIEFS

HEROIN SMUGGLER SENTENCED--Taj Din's shoes gave him away when he tried to bring 200,000 pounds' worth of heroin into Britain through Heathrow airport. Not only did he wear them on the wrong feet, but they were far too big for him, padded as they were with cotton wool. And the soles were double thick, so that heroin could be stuffed inside. Din, 43, a father of five, of Sheridan Road, Manor Park, admitted smuggling when he appeared at Reading Crown Court yesterday. Mrs Nikki Saville, prosecuting, said customs men noticed Din's uncomfortable shoes when he walked through the green "nothing to declare" channel. She said Din paid 4,000 pounds for the drugs on his way back from Pakistan in August. He was in partnership with a fellow Pakistani with whom he worked at Fords, Dagenham. Mr Ovais Kadri, defending, said: "Instead of swimming in money he's found himself totally in the deep end." Jailing him for 3 1/2 years, Recorder Michael Kennedy, Q.C. said: "You deliberately took a risk with other people's lives so that you could make money out of it." [Text] [London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 29 Sep 81 p 3]

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END